(d) the total estimated value of annual production of these units;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to set up industrial complexes for these industries; and

(f) if so, the details there of and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of the package for the tiny sector are being worked out.

(c) The actual number of tiny units functioning in the country at present is not available.The 2nd All-India Census of Registered Small Scale Industries Units was carried out for the units registred upto 31st March, 1988. As per this Census, 10.55 lakh SSI units were registered out of which 6.10 lakh units were found working, but data could be collected from 5.82 lakh units only. Out of total registered units for which data were collected, 95.9 percent of the total registered SSI units were tiny units having investment in plant and machinery below Rs. 5 lakhs. During 1995-96, there were 20.84 lakh regisreted SSI units in the country. Going by the same ratios of working units and the tiny units, it is estimated that by the end of 1995-96 about 11.56 iakh registered tiny units were functioning in the country.

(d) No information on the annual Production of tiny units is available.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Impact of Import on Domestic Wire and Cable Industry

1767. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have surveyed the impact of its import policy on the domestic wire and cable industry;

(b) if so, the findings thereof especially due to the permitted project import of all equipments including wire & cables for power and industrial projects; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to rationalise the situation vis-a-vis import of cables and domestic cables so that the Indian Cable Industry can compete with foreign suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Ministry of Commerce has not conducted any survey of the Impact of Import policy on the domestic Wire and Cable Industry.

Financial Irregularities

1768. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No.4285 dated March 21, 1997 regarding 'financial irregularities' and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government there-on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item appearing in the Dainik Jagaran dated 18 December, 1996 refers, inter-alia, to 'imbalances' in primary co-operative societies and reported financial irregularities in a large number of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). While the responsibility of overseeing the working of PACS vests with the State Government, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been entrusted with the responsibility of inspecting Co-operative banks under the provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Accordingly, NABARD has been periodically inspecting these institutions.

NABARD has reported that Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Uttar Pradesh had ordered an investigation into the allegations, the findings of which have revealed, inter-alia, that the actual amount of imbalances as on 31st March, 1995 stood at Rs.245.50 crores instead of Rs. 1200.00 crores, as reported in the newspaper. The factors responsible for these imbalances are, inter-allia, insufficient margins in disbursement of short-term credit, utilisation of recoveries in meeting the cost of management, levying of interest on the existing amount of imbalances, adjustment of recoveries towards losses on account of wastage of seeds and fertilizers, inadequate margin in consumer business and fair price shops and non-levying of interest when the amount of interest becomes equal to the principal.

(c) With a view to avoid recurrence of the problem of imbalances, an action plan has been drawn to make societies viable which, inter-alia, envisages introduction of a proper head of account to reflect cost of management. Instructions have been issued to ensure that the payment of wages to the employees of societies should invariably be made from out of the above head of account. Further introduction of financial discipline regarding recovery of atleast 40% of demand has left an impact on the banks and they are making vigorous follow-up to ensure better recovery performance. It is expected that this would help in removing the problem of default at society level.

Rewards to Informers of Income Tax

1769. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are cases relating to giving rewards to those informers on the basis of those information